



Toward the end of his long life Ebenezer Delano sold his farm in bits and pieces. One such piece was a house lot to Benjamin Bosworth, Aug. 1794, a lot that lay on the north side of a roadway, surrounded by other lots from the old farm.

According to the deed, Benjamin Bosworth was a house carpenter so he probably built his own house. It is a 2-story framed house with the same general floor plan of the times, but being his own builder Benjamin allowed himself a little personal design in his own home, or so it seems.

The kitchen is in the center of the rear of the house with a buttry on one end and the usual small bedroom on the other, and that was like most other houses. Benjamin's personal contribution to the architectural design was a short addition to the kitchen extending beyond the rear wall, sort of like a mini ell, with the big old fireplace and brick oven in that ell part of the kitchen rather than in the central chimney, very unusual. Most ells are later additions but this seems to be a private change in the traditional layout of rooms. It puts the builder apart from the general run of house carpenters, if one's observations today are true.

There was no road east of the house in 1794 and the new house faced south on a well-travelled cartway that is now Surplus St. When Benjamin Bosworth sold his house in 1823 the bounds of his lot show that he had lost a rod to the east to a new road that is now Washington St.

For many years Henry B. Sampson and his brother William owned the house, Henry living in it and William living on Water St. They were merchants, engaged in many enterprises—a wharf, ships, coast-wise trade, and a store which they operated just to the north of the Bosworth lot.

Later the house was altered to accommodate 2 families and still later it was a boarding house to take advantage of summer visitors. None of the alterations changed the original house much and when it went again into private family ownership, it needed only a refurbishing, not a restoration.

Stoves, kerosene lamps, a pump and an out house were all there, along with the old latches, wide floor boards, narrow stairs and big fireplaces. Despite present day utilities, Mercy Bosworth would recognize her home with no trouble at all. Today Jessie A. Arnold lives in the house Benjamin Bosworth, house carpenter, built in 1794.

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